

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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S E C R E T STATE 090031

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET APPROACH TO SYRIA RE LEBANESE SITUATION

1. ARMITAGE (DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EUR) MAY 10 SAW
VORONTOV (SOVIET CHARGE) AND ASKED SOVIETS TO COUNSEL
MODERATION AND CAUTION TO SYRIA WITH REGARD TO ITS ACTIONS
RELATING TO TENSE SITUATION IN LEBANON. APPROACH TOOK
FOLLOWING LINE:

A) US FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY IN LEBANON AND
GREATLY CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL SERIOUS PROBLEMS THERE
AS WE ARE SURE USSR IS.

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B) US HAS NOT INTERVENED IN LEBANESE CRISIS AND HAS NO WISH TO DO SO. WE BELIEVE LEBANESE CAN HANDLE SITUATION WITH PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP IF LEFT ALONE AND WE NOTE THAT SOME OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING EGYPT AND KUWAIT ARE APPARENTLY SEEKING TO BE HELPFUL.

C) MAIN SOURCE OF TROUBLE AND PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO MAINTENANCE OF LEBANESE- FEDAYEEN CEASE- FIRE AGREEMENTS SEEMS TO LIE IN ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. SYRIA HAS SHARPLY ATTACKED LEBANESE GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY AND ITS ACTION IN ALLOWING FEDAYEEN UNITS IN SYRIA TO CROSS

BORDER INTO LEBANON, IN PARTICULAR, ARE CREATING DANGEROUS SITUATION.

D) THERE IS DANGER OF WHICH ALL SHOULD BE AWARE MIGHT CONSULT IN US.
INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED
NMAFVVZCZ

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